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# The Food Distribution Program and the National Nutrition Services for the Elderly Program

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Through the Food Distribution Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) donates food to help meet the nutritional needs of children, needy adults, and the elderly. The program also helps to expand markets for food that American farmers produce.

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## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

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The Food Distribution Program serves elderly Americans and Indians through the National Nutrition Services for the Elderly Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, provides for social services and nutritious meals for elderly people. HHS gives grants to State Agencies on Aging and Indian tribal agencies, which designate Area Agencies on Aging to plan and coordinate the nutrition program through providers of nutrition service at the local level.

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## WHAT MEAL ASSISTANCE DOES USDA PROVIDE?

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The State Agencies on Aging and Indian tribal agencies request USDA-donated foods, cash in lieu of foods, or a combination of both to use in providing meals to the elderly at various sites. The amount of food or cash that USDA gives each State is based on the number of meals served in the program and the level of assistance per meal authorized by legislation.

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## WHAT SERVICES DOES THE PROGRAM PROVIDE?

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Area Agencies on Aging provide:

- Nutrition services in schools, community centers, churches, public housing, and other places located within walking distance of the homes of the majority of local elderly people.
- Nutritious, well-balanced hot or cold meals at least once a day, 5 or more days a week.
- Transportation to and from the sites for those who need it, when possible.
- Home-delivered meals at least once a day, 5 or more days a week, when possible, to older people who are homebound.

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## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

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People 60 years of age or older and their spouses, regardless of age, may participate in the program.

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## WHAT DO THE MEALS COST?

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While each provider of nutrition service suggests appropriate contributions based on local economic conditions, each person decides what he or she can contribute toward the cost of the meal. The meals are free to eligible persons regardless of whether they make any contribution.

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## CAN FOOD STAMPS BE USED FOR THESE MEALS?

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In some cases, people may make a contribution for their meals with food stamps. The provider of nutrition service must first request and receive permission from USDA to accept and redeem food stamps in exchange for meals served. People who get food stamps should ask about this at the nutrition program near them.

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## WHERE IS THE NEAREST NUTRITION PROGRAM LOCATED?

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Ask about the nutrition program for the elderly at either the County Office on Aging or at your local health or social services office.

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## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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You may obtain information on nutrition programs for the elderly from the Department of Health and Human Services regional offices at the following addresses:

Department of Health and Human Services  
John F. Kennedy Building  
Government Center  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Department of Health and Human Services  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10007

Department of Health and Human Services  
Post Office Box 13716  
3535 Market Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Department of Health and Human Services  
101 Marietta Towers  
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Department of Health and Human Services  
300 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Department of Health and Human Services  
1200 Main Tower Building  
Dallas, Texas 75201

Department of Health and Human Services  
601 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Department of Health and Human Services  
Federal Office Building  
19th and Stout Streets  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Department of Health and Human Services  
Federal Office Building  
50 United Nations Plaza  
San Francisco, California 94102

Department of Health and Human Services  
2901 Third Avenue  
Third and Broad Streets  
Building M.S. 412  
Seattle, Washington 98121

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### Cooperating Departments:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service and
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging

The Food Distribution Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is available to all eligible people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap.

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